

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the limitation of providing a band having a concave cross section, taken perpendicular to said longitudinal axis, substantially along its entire longitudinal axis, and deforming said band substantially along its entire longitudinal axis so that it has a substantially planar cross section. Support for this can be found in the drawings and specifications as originally filed. Accordingly, no new matter is involved.

In the previous office action the Examiner rejected Applicants claims under 35 USC 103 over Hallberg over Oetiker. The Examiner specifically referred to figure 3c and paragraph 27 of Oetiker. However, oetiker describes figure 3c as showing a cross-section of the device through the hose clamp [0016], and paragraph 27 describes that that region can be provided with a concave or convex curvature.

By way of contrast, Applicants have amended their claims to state that the curvature extends along substantially the entire length of the band so that the method involves the step of deforming the band substantially along its entire longitudinal axis so that it has a substantially planar cross section. This method helps to reduce potential sharp points along the entire length of the band.

Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 1 is fully allowable over the prior art cited by the Examiner. Consequently, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection to claim 1. In addition, because all other claims depend from claim 1, likewise they are also allowable over the prior art and applicant requests that the prior art rejections to these claims also be withdrawn. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner re-examine and favorably reconsider Applicant's claims in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

/Dean L. Garner/
Dean L. Garner
Reg. No. 35,877
Attorney for Applicants

Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003
1-(513) 337-8559
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